IOC's Investment in Sri Lanka

2098. SHRI B.J. PANDA:
MISS MABEL REBELLO:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the total investment of Oil Corporation in Sri Lanka and its further expansion plans in that country; and

(b) the details of its investments in petroleum sector in Mauritius and expansion plans in Bangladesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) The Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. (IOC) is entering in downstream marketing of petroleum products in Sri Lanka through a wholly-owned subsidiary, *viz.*, Lanka IOC Private Ltd., by acquiring about 100 retail outlets owned by the Ceylon Petroleum Corporation (CPC) and about 150 Dealer -Owned Retail Outlets, by taking over the Trincomalee Tankfarm on lease and by forming a joint venture company with the CPC for owning and operating the existing and future storage facilities in the country. The IOC has plan to invest about Rs. 172 crores in the project. The IOC has already taken over 98 CPC owned retail outlets and the Trincomalee Tankfarm. The supply from these retail outlets and Trincomalee has already commenced.

The IOC has future plans to enter the aviation, LPG, lubricant and bulk business in Sri Lanka.

(b) The IOC is in the process of setting up an Oil Terminal at Mer Rouge, aviation facility at the International Airport, facility for LPG storage, bottling and distribution, 25 world-class retail stations and facilities for marketing Servo Lubricants. The estimated investment in the project is Rs. 80.29 crore.

The IOC has submitted a proposal to the Government of Bangladesh for its entry into the downsteam petroleum sector in the country. The IOC has also plans to set up LPG bottling plants in Bangladesh. The IOC has formed a consortium with the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. and the GAIL India Ltd. for participation in the Indo-Bangladesh Natural Gas Pipeline project from the Indian side for the import of natural gas from

Bangladesh. The investment decision for the facilities for transportation of natural gas to end consumers depends on the permission from Bangladesh for export of natural gas to India and the techno-economic viability.

Demand for Kerosene in A.P.

2099. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH:
SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the demand for kerosene is constantly increasing in rural and urban areas due to power shortage in Andhra Pradesh particularly in backward districts;

(b) whether Government are contemplating to hike the quota for kerosene to the drought prone areas of Andhra Pradesh to enable them to meet the rising demand of kerosene; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISETER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) to (c) Government makes kerosene allocation to the state for distribution under Public Distribution System. State Government of Andhra Pradesh undertakes distribution of the product to urban, rural and drought prone areas etc., within the allocation made by the Government.

Upgradation of Cochin Refinery

2100. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:
SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken to upgrade the BPCL's Cochin refinery in this financial year; and

(b) the details of the steps including the time by when the work is likely to begin?